

AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows.

Paragraph 0018 of the application as published:

-- [0018] An embodiment utilizes a metallic cellular metal core 21 with strongly bonded facesheets 22, 23 ~~[[21,22]]~~ to absorb (by plasticity) the blast energy (one or more face sheets may be omitted or added if desired). Additional facesheets can be applied between layers of the core so as to provide intermediate facesheets (not shown). The face sheets can be mesh, aperture, or perforated as desired. Projectiles are arrested by fracture/erosion during impact with a ceramic material 51 placed on the outer surface (or the interior of the core 21 as shown as reference 24 in FIGS. 3-4) or both. The core 21 induces projectile rotation so that a large area is presented for "capture" by a ballistic fabric 71. This fabric or other suitable structure can be placed in the core 21 (as shown as reference 25 in FIGS. 2 and 4) or attached to the back surface of the sandwich panel 23. The fabric 71 or ceramic 51 can be incorporated in a matrix (e.g. a polymer) to create a composite attached to the facesheets 22, 23 ~~faces 21, 22~~ or impregnated within the core 21 and can be a wide variety of structure types and designs of fragment catching structure 25 or projectile arresting structure 24.—

Paragraph 0022 of the published application, as previously amended:

-- [0022] The protection system or structure 1 described above can be manufactured by a variety of methods. For example, the ceramic front sheet 51 is attached by metal to ceramic bonding methods. The ceramic can be added to the structure as small tiles with/without overlapping edges to accommodate thermal expansion mismatch. Ceramic or other suitable materials can be used. For instance, other structural forms and other acceptable materials, ~~such as, but not limited thereto,~~ include, but are not limited to, carbon matrix composites, fiber reinforced, particulate reinforced, strips, applied layers, rods, spheres, chemically hardening slurries, cubes or other geometric shapes self contained as discussed in PCT International Application No. PCT/US03/23043, entitled "Method For Manufacture of Cellular Materials and Structures for Blast and Impact Mitigation and Resulting Structure," filed on July 23, 2003 (~~[[of]]~~ which is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety). The ceramics can also be attached by

many other approaches including adhesive bonding and mechanical attachment (bolts, rivets, etc.), but not limited thereto. Ceramics can be incorporated in the structure 1 or core 21 by slurry and dry powder infiltration methods. Adhesives or brazes can, if desired, be used to bond the ceramic to the metallic structure. All or just a part of the core can be filled with this material. Whereas one cellular metal core system is ideal for retaining ceramic particles and another for blast mitigation, multiple core systems can be used such that one of the aforementioned is stacked upon another. Multiple cores, face sheets, and sub-cores can be stacked upon one another.--.